



## ACTIONS

### N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

July 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters  
Raleigh, North Carolina

**Meeting** – *Commission Chairman* Steve Windham called the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters, Raleigh, NC.

**Welcome** – Chairman Windham welcomed Commissioners and visitors, recognizing Commissioners-Elect Tom Berry and Mark Craig, and especially welcoming Gloria Price, wife of Commissioner Eugene Price, and members of Windham's family Cheryl Windham and Coty Conner.

**Mandatory Ethics Inquiry** – Chairman Windham read the ethics inquiry, mandated in North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e), which requires Commissioners to avoid conflicts of interest or appearances of conflict in matters coming before the Commission.

**Minutes** - the Commission approved the May 12, 2011 Wildlife Resources Commission minutes as presented in **Exhibit A**.

**Reappointment of Commissioner Wes Seegars** – Chairman Windham read into the minutes **Exhibit B**, the notice of reappointment by Governor Beverly Perdue of Wes Seegars as District 3 Commissioner, for a six-year term ending April 25, 2017.

**Financial Status Report** - the Commission received a financial status report as of May 31, 2011 on the Wildlife Operating Fund, which has a balance of \$15,914,906.39, and the Wildlife Endowment Fund, which has a balance of \$82,322,980.68, from Tommy Clark, *Budget Officer*, in **Exhibit C**.

**National Fishing and Boating Week Lifetime License Presentations-** Chairman Steve Windham awarded a Lifetime Sportsman's License, sponsored by Neuse Sport Shop in Kinston to George Sinor of Raleigh. Windham thanked Russell Rhodes of Neuse Sport Shop for the donation of the Lifetime Sportsman's License, which allows state-wide hunting and fishing privileges including coastal fishing. A Lifetime Freshwater Fishing License, sponsored by the N.C. Council of Trout Unlimited, was won by Noah Stephenson of High Point. Noah was unable to attend. Chairman Windham thanked Ned Jones of Trout Unlimited for their support of the National Fishing and Boating Week License drawings.

Chairman Windham called for a short recess at 9:05 so that photographs could be taken. The meeting reconvened at 9:10.

**Inland Fisheries Spotlight** - Jake Rash, *Coldwater Research Coordinator, Division of Inland Fisheries*, presented a spotlight about the agency's Trout Management Plan. Since 1989 the Trout Management Plan has been used to increase the quantity and quality of trout especially native brook trout, and to protect resources and enhance habitat while minimizing the effects of invasive species. Rash stated that revisions to the management plan are underway. Staff is working to recruit and retain anglers and to improve public access for fishing, conducting research and biological surveys to evaluate alternative trout management strategies, and providing education and communication about trout fishing's economic impact to North Carolina of \$174 million in one year.

**Inland Fisheries Update** - the Commission received an update about the activities of the Inland Fisheries Division from Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*. Curry recognized Doug Besler, *Mountain Region Supervisor*, for his work with trout management. Curry mentioned recent conservation outreach opportunities, noting that 23,000 people visited the Education Centers in May. Forty-three events reaching 2500 young people were held during National Fishing and Boating Week. Curry thanked the Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department, the Neuse Sport Shop, and N.C. Trout Unlimited for their tremendous support. Curry updated the Commission on the movement of Atlantic sturgeon that were tagged with radio tags at Weldon. One sturgeon was recorded recently swimming past Cape Hatteras. Curry announced that a creel survey was initiated on July 1 at Randleman Reservoir. Curry announced that Warm Water Fisheries and Habitat, Non-Game and Endangered Species Committees will meet on August 24, 2011.

**2012-2013 Fishing Proposals** – the Commission voted to take to state-wide public hearings in September the following proposed changes in inland fishing rules for 2012-2013, presented in **Exhibit D** by Bob Curry.

### **Trout**

- 1) Cedar Cliff Lake (Jackson County) - Classify this 146-acre lake as Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*

- 2) Catawba River (McDowell County) - Classify 0.6 miles of this stream as Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters.  
*Amend the following rule:*  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*
- 3) Elk Creek (Wilkes County) - Classify 1.5 miles of this stream as Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters.  
*Amend the following rule:*  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*
- 4) Shawneehaw Creek (Avery County) - Classify 0.5 miles of this stream as Wild Trout Waters.  
*Amend the following rule:*  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*
- 5) Laurel Creek (Watauga County) - Classify 0.3 miles of this stream as Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters.  
*Amend the following rule:*  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*
- 6) Little River (Alleghany County) - Reclassify the upper 2.5 miles of this stream from Hatchery-Supported to Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters.  
*Amend the following rule:*  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*
- 7) Big Horse Creek (Ashe County) - Reclassify the lower 2.5 miles of this stream from Hatchery-Supported to Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters.  
*Amend the following rule:*  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*
- 8) Elk Creek (Watauga) - Clarify the boundaries of the Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters section of this stream adding approximately 2.0 miles.  
*Amend the following rule:*  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*
- 9) North Toe River (Avery County) - Divide the Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters on this stream into an upper and lower section and remove 10.1 miles of this stream from the Public Mountain Trout Waters.  
*Amend the following rule:*  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*
- 10) Long Creek (Graham County) - Remove 4.2 miles of this stream from Public Mountain trout Waters.  
*Amend the following rule:*  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*
- 11) Little Hungry River (Henderson County) - Remove 5.9 miles of this stream from Public Mountain Trout Waters.  
*Amend the following rule:*  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*
- 12) Little Creek (Madison County) - Remove 2.0 miles of this stream from Public Mountain Trout Waters.  
*Amend the following rule:*  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*

- 13) Mill Creek (Madison County) - Remove 2.4 miles of this stream from Public Mountain Trout Waters, and reclassify the section on Game Lands as Wild Trout Waters.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*

- 14) Cane Creek (Mitchell County) - Remove 2.7 miles of this stream from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*

- 15) French Broad River (Transylvania County) - Remove 10.3 miles of this stream from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters*

### **Striped Bass**

- 1) Establish a 4-fish creel limit and a 20-inch size limit on striped bass in lakes Rhodhiss, Hickory, and Lookout Shoals.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits*

- 2) Increase the minimum size limit for striped bass and hybrid striped bass in B. Everett Jordan Reservoir from 20 to 24 inches.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits*

### **Black Bass**

- 1) Establish a statewide 14-inch, 5-fish limit for black bass in aggregate, allowing 2 undersized fish to be harvested.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits*

- 2) Remove the exception to the statewide black bass length limit for District 9 waters and Public Mountain Trout Waters.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits*

- 3) Establish a 10-fish daily creel limit of which no more than two fish greater than 14 inches may be possessed in Lake Cammack (Alamance County) and Lake Holt (Granville County).

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits*

- 4) Establish a maximum size limit for largemouth bass in Randleman Reservoir where only one fish greater than 20 inches can be retained in the 5-fish daily creel and establish a 2-fish exception to the minimum size limit such that 2 fish within the 5-fish daily creel can be less than 14 inches.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits*

### American Shad

- 1) Reduce the possession limit of American shad to 1 fish per day within the aggregate daily creel of 10 fish for American and hickory shad in inland fishing waters and tributaries of the Neuse River.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits*

### Catfish

- 1) Clarify that channel, white, or blue catfish may only be taken legally by hook and line and the daily creel limit is six fish in aggregate in waters that are stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on other Commission-owned property, or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program. The affected water bodies will be identified by posting instead of being listed in the NCAC.

*Amend the following rules:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits*

*15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale*

*15A NCAC 10E .0104 Use of Areas Regulated*

### Other

- 1) Add Lake Tillery to the list of reservoirs where possession of grass carp is prohibited except those legally taken with bow and arrow.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale*

- 2) Allow the take of nongame fishes with crossbow and arrow from all inland fishing waters other than impounded waters located on the Sandhills Game Land and designated public mountain trout waters.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0404 Special Device Fishing*

- 3) Classify eleven tributaries to the Neuse River, one tributary to the Pamlico River, and one tributary to the Cape Fear River as inland primary nursery areas.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10C .0503 Descriptive Boundaries*

The Commission voted to edit 4) below regarding possession of a handgun by concealed carry permit holders while on public fishing and boating access areas, replacing “concealed” with “in accordance with the provisions of the concealed carry permit”:

- 4) Allow individuals who possess a valid concealed handgun permit to carry that handgun ~~concealed~~ in accordance with the provisions of the concealed carry permit on public fishing and boating access areas.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10E .0104 Use of Areas Regulated*

**Staff Recognitions** – Chairman Windham recognized Patricia Barnes and Betsy Foard of the Director’s Office staff for their assistance to the Wildlife Commissioners.

**Wildlife Management Update** – the Commission received an update from Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*, about the activities of the Division of Wildlife Management. Dr. Cobb mentioned the damaging wildfires at Holly Shelter and Suggs Millpond and announced that Forest Resources has the lead in the fire suppression activities. Cobb directed the Commissioners to CDs that have been provided to them. The CDs contain information on deer harvest data, September public hearings, urban archery seasons, feral swine, spring turkey harvest data, and some newsletters and a bear report, among other articles. A copy of *Wildlife Professional* magazine has been provided to each Commissioner and Dr. Cobb suggested reading the article about the impact of feral cats upon the quail population.

**Property Acquisition, Halifax County** – the Commission approved **Exhibit E**, a staff recommendation to coordinate with the State Property Office to pursue the acquisition by donation of the Forestry Investment Associates – Daniel Whitaker Tract in Halifax County for inclusion into the Game Land program.

**2011 Status of Mourning Dove Populations and American Woodcock Populations** - the Commission received reports from Dr. Cobb in **Exhibits F-1 and F-2** that summarize the status of mourning dove and woodcock populations for 2011.

**Proposed 2011-2012 Early Hunting Season Frameworks for Certain Migratory Game Birds**- the Commission received frameworks, presented by Dr. Cobb in **Exhibit F-3**, outlining Department of the Interior frameworks for season lengths, shooting hours, bag and possession limits, and outside dates within which States may select seasons for hunting waterfowl and coots between the dates of September 1, 2011 and March 10, 2012.

**Public Comments Regarding 2011-2012 Recommendations for Early Season Framework** - the Commission received a summary from Dr. Cobb, in **Exhibit F-4**, of public comments by internet regarding the proposed Early Migratory Game Bird Season Frameworks.

**2011-2012 Seasons and Bag Limits for Webless Migratory Game Birds and Canada Geese** - the Commission adopted staff recommendations, presented by Dr. Cobb in **Exhibit F-5**, for the 2011-2012 seasons, bag limits, and shooting hours for webless migratory game birds and waterfowl seasons beginning prior to October 1; to wit:

- Mourning Dove and White-winged Dove- Sept. 3 - Oct.8; Nov. 21 - Nov. 26; and Dec. 17 - Jan. 13 (shooting hours noon until sunset on September 3 and one half hour before sunrise until sunset thereafter); daily bag 15
- King and Clapper Rails- Sept. 1 - Nov. 9; daily bag 15
- Sora and Virginia Rails- Sept. 1 - Nov. 9; daily bag 25
- Gallinule and Moorhens- Sept. 1 - Nov. 9; daily bag 15
- Woodcock- Dec. 15 – Jan. 28; daily bag 3

- Common Snipe- Nov. 14 - Feb. 28; daily bag 8
- Canada Goose- Sept. 1 – 30 statewide; daily bag 15; [extend shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset; allow use of unplugged guns; allow use of electronic calls- these expanded methods are allowed only west of U.S. 17]
- September Teal Season- Sept. 10 – 28 (East of U.S. 17 Only); daily bag 4

**2011-2012 Extended Falconry Seasons for Webless Migratory Game Bird Species** - the Commission adopted the following options for 2011-2012 Extended Falconry Seasons for webless species, presented by Dr. Cobb in **Exhibit F-6**:

- Mourning Doves:       October 15 – November 19
- Rails, Gallinule,  
and Moorhens:       November 19 – December 24
- Woodcock:           November 7 – December 10 and January 30 – February 25

The falconry daily bag limit is three permitted migratory game birds, singly or in the aggregate.

**2012-2013 Proposed Hunting and Trapping Rules for Consideration at State-Wide Public Hearings** - the Commission voted to take to state-wide public hearings the following proposed changes in hunting and trapping regulations for 2012-2013, presented in **Exhibit G-1**.

### **Deer**

1) Increase the either-sex deer season from conservative to moderate in Polk County.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed)*

### **Bear**

1) Lengthen the bear hunting season (hunting with dogs and still hunting, unless prohibited by local law) in Greene, Halifax, Lenoir, Martin, Northampton, and Pitt counties. Currently, Greene, Lenoir and Pitt counties are open for one week in November. This proposal adds two weeks in December to their season. Currently, Halifax, Martin and Northampton counties are open for one week in November and three days in December. This proposal would extend the December segment of the season from three days to two weeks. The proposed season for all six of these counties is from the second Monday in November to the following Saturday and the third Monday after Thanksgiving to the fifth Saturday after Thanksgiving.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear*

2) Open a bear hunting season (hunting with dogs and still hunting, unless prohibited by local law) in Edgecombe, Harnett, Johnston, Nash, Stokes, Vance, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties. In addition, change the bear season in Yadkin, Iredell, Alexander, and Catawba counties. The proposed season for all of these counties is from the second Monday in November to the following Saturday and the third Monday after Thanksgiving to the fifth Saturday after Thanksgiving.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear*

3) Open the portions of Cleveland, Burke and Surry counties that are currently closed to bear hunting. The proposed season (hunting with dogs and still hunting, unless prohibited by local law) for these counties would be from the Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving and the third Monday after Thanksgiving to January 1.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear*

### **Dogs**

1) Allow hunters to use dogs on Sundays on private lands in locations and during seasons where the use of dogs is currently allowed the other six days of the week in those counties or parts thereof which are west of the dog line. The practice is already allowed east of the dog line. Also, allow falconers to use dogs on private lands and on game lands on Sundays.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10B .0201 Prohibited taking and manner of take*

### **Crows and Coyotes**

1) Allow electronic calls for take of crows and coyotes.

*Amend the following rules:*

*15A NCAC 10B .0215 Crows*

*15A NCAC 10B .0219 Coyote*

### **Weapons**

The Commission voted to revise (1) below, striking references to the requirement that individuals who possess a concealed carry permit must carry a handgun “concealed” in the various rule proposals. Concealed Carry permit holders must adhere to the provisions governing the concealed carry permit under state law:

1) Allow individuals who possess a valid concealed handgun permit to carry that handgun ~~concealed~~ in accordance with the provisions of the concealed carry permit while on wildlife conservation areas and game lands, except for these game lands for which the landowner has asked to be exempted: Buckhorn, Harris, Sutton Lake, Mayo, Hyco, Lee, Chatham, Pee Dee River north of U.S. 74, Butner-Falls, Jordan, Vance, Kerr Scott, Dupont, Bladen Lakes and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell that is north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119. Also, allow hunters who possess a valid concealed handgun permit to carry that handgun ~~concealed~~ while dog training and during the deer archery and muzzleloader seasons on both public and private lands.

*Amend the following rules:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use*

*15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed)*

*15A NCAC 10J .0102 General regulation regarding use of conservation areas*

*15A NCAC 10B .0114 Dog training and field trials*



2) Allow individuals to use a .22 caliber rimfire pistol to dispatch a wounded deer during the deer archery and muzzleloader seasons on both public and private lands.

*Amend the following rules:*

*15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use*

*15A NCAC 10J .0102 General regulation regarding use of conservation areas*

### **Game Lands**

1) Clarify what wildlife resources and other materials may be possessed on or removed from Commission lands without any type of written permission or license and for which ones removal would require written permission.

*Amend the following rules:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use*

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands*

*15A NCAC 10J .0102 General regulation regarding use of conservation areas*

*Adopt the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0105 Possession and removal of animals, plants and materials*

2) Require a permit to enter Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge (HCSWR) in Davie County.

*Amend the following rules:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use*

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands*

3) Increase fees for the use of the field trial facilities located on the Sandhills Game Land from the current \$25.00 to \$75.00 for use of the club house only and from \$100 to \$200 for the use of the club house and field trial grounds. Current cost estimates for operating the facility (not including staff time) in FY 2009-10 were \$14,025. Revenues generated by user fees during the same time period were \$9,000.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands*

4) Allow additional archery and muzzleloader deer hunting on Sandhills Game Land by opening an archery season on the third Monday after Thanksgiving through January 1, except on the field trial grounds.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands*

5) Increase the either-sex deer season on Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land from the conservative to moderate.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands*

6) Increase the either-sex deer season on Neuse River Game Land from moderate to maximum.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands*

7) Open the bear season at Chowan Swamp Game Land on the first three hunting days during the November bear season and the first three days of the second week of the December bear season in order to be consistent with other game lands in District One.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands*

8) Open the raccoon, opossum and bobcat hunting season in the Sherwood and Harmon Den Bear Sanctuaries in Haywood County.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands*

9) Make waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on Catfish Lake Waterfowl Impoundment at the Croatan Game Land by permit only.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands*

10) Remove text from the Commission's rule which references the disabled sportsman hunts on R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell, Dupont State Forest, Sandhills, Thurmond Chatham, and Toxaway game lands. Disabled sportsman hunts will continue to be offered through the Permit Hunting Opportunities Program and in the *Permit Hunting Opportunities in North Carolina* guide.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands*

11) Prohibit hunting and taking fox squirrels on Rockfish Creek Game Land.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands*

## **Permits**

1) Connect caging requirements for listed species as written in the captivity rule to the rule that allows possession of endangered species.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10I .0102 Protection of endangered/threatened/special concern*

2) Require landowners who receive a depredation permit for Canada Geese that are causing damage to agricultural operations to report the number of geese taken.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10B .0106 Wildlife taken for depredations or accidentally*

## **Importation of Animal Parts**

1) Allow the Executive Director or his designee to waive the rule banning the importation of a cervid carcass or carcass part from any state where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) occurs for a deer or elk harvested within 20 miles of the North Carolina state line.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10A .1101 Waiver*

### Captive Cervids

- 1) Establish captive cervid importation criteria for captive cervid licensees with Certified herds. All cervids would be prohibited from state/provinces/other countries with active Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Importation of white-tailed deer, white-tailed deer hybrids, Sika deer, red deer, elk, elk hybrids, moose or any other species of CWD-susceptible cervids will be allowed only from states/provinces/countries which have a license type, certification program or monitoring program that requires captive cervid facility owners to, at a minimum:
  - submit for CWD testing all deceased animals over the age of 12 months;
  - tag, tattoo or otherwise permanently mark all animals over the age of 12 months; and
  - keep records of all acquisitions and all dispositions in the facility.

Fallow deer, muntjac deer and other non CWD-susceptible cervids will be eligible for importation if they came from a fenced facility and have been isolated from contact with CWD-susceptible cervids for the past 5 years. Non CWD-susceptible cervids that have been in contact with CWD-susceptible animals are subject to the same importation criteria as CWD-susceptible animals.

*Amend the following rules:*

*15A NCAC 10B .0101 Importation of wild animals and birds*

*15A NCAC 10H .0304 Captive cervid herd certification program*

- 2) Amend the waiver rule to allow Certified herd owners the ability to apply for an importation waiver for cervids that do not meet the proposed importation criteria, except from states with CWD in wild cervids.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10A .1101 Waiver*

- 3) Allow for the issuance of new captive cervid licenses with controls in place to prohibit using a secondary license to expand a facility. Require newly licensed facilities to have double-fencing. Allow transportation of cervids from N.C. Certified herds (5-year status) into these new facilities for the first six months after their construction.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10H .0301 General requirements*

*15A NCAC 10H .0302 Minimum standards*

### Falconry

- 1) Remove the extended season for take of squirrels by falconry.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10B .0216 Falconry*

2) Amend 12 current rules pertaining to falconry, repeal one and adopt two additional rules in order for the Commission to fully regulate falconry in North Carolina in accordance with a directive from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Deadline for these changes is January 1, 2014.

*Amend the following rules:*

*15A NCAC 10H .0801 Definitions*

*15A NCAC 10H .0802 Permit and license requirements*

*15A NCAC 10H .0803 Application for ~~permit~~ license*

*15A NCAC 10H .0804 Examination*

*15A NCAC 10H .0805 Duration of ~~permit~~ license*

*15A NCAC 10H .0806 ~~Conditions of permit~~ Acquisition, sale and status change*

*15A NCAC 10H .0807 ~~classes~~ Levels of ~~permits~~ licenses*

*15A NCAC 10H .0808 Facilities and equipment*

*15A NCAC 10H .0809 Marking*

*15A NCAC 10H .0810 Taking raptors*

*15A NCAC 10H .0811 Other restrictions and conditions*

*15A NCAC 10H .0812 Interstate transportation*

*15A NCAC 10H .0813 Raptor propagation permit*

*Adopt the following rules:*

*15A NCAC 10H .0814 Release of raptors or moved to other permit*

*15A NCAC 10H .0815 Other uses and allowed activities*

3) Allow the practice of falconry on Sundays on Three Day Per Week game lands.

*Amend the following rule:*

*15A NCAC 10D.0103 Hunting on Game Lands*

\*Changes to falconry regulations will be presented at the nine district hearings and at an additional hearing in Raleigh on September 28.

**Proposed Changes in Hunting and Trapping Regulations for 2012-2013 Not Recommended by Agency Staff for Notice and Comment** - the Commission received **Exhibit G-2**, a list of proposed changes in 2012-2013 hunting and trapping regulations not recommended by staff for notice and comment. No action was taken on these proposals.

1. Allow for the sale of deer pelts.
2. Remove Jackson and Macon from the list of wild boar counties.
3. Open raccoon season on the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge two weeks prior to the current statewide season.
4. Increase the length of the fox squirrel season, increase the bag limits for fox squirrels and open five new counties to fox squirrel hunting.
5. Make hunting squirrels at Sandhills Game Land by permit only.
6. Make hunting deer in the Richmond County portion of the Pee Dee River Game Land by permit only.

**Temporary Rulemaking – Allow Electronic Calls for the Take of Crows and Coyotes** – the Commission approved the staff recommendation presented in **Exhibit H-1** for temporary rulemaking to revise 15A NCAC 10B .0215 and 15A NCAC 10B .0219 to be consistent with House Bill 432, which gives the Commission authority to adopt rules for the use of electronic calls for the take of crows and coyotes. The temporary rule will allow hunters to continue to use electronic calls for crows and coyotes until permanent rules become effective on January 1, 2012.

**Temporary Rulemaking – Add Feral Swine to Hunting Rules with No Closed Season and No Bag Limit-** the Commission approved the staff recommendation in **Exhibit H-2** for temporary rulemaking to revise 15A NCAC 10B .0223 to be consistent with House Bill 432 (Swine in Transport/Regulate Feral Swine). The temporary rule is necessary to allow sportsmen to hunt feral swine (reclassified as wild animals under HB 432). A permanent rule proposal was adopted for presentation at public hearings to become effective April 1, 2012.

**Public Comments Summary – Rule Proposal for Changes to Wildlife Service Agent Agreements** – the Commission received from Cecilia Edgar, *Deputy Director of Administration*, a summary in **Exhibit I-1** of public comments on proposed changes to Wildlife Service Agent Agreement rules from a public hearing held March 31, 2011 in Raleigh and from the WRC internet portal and written correspondence. Eight comments were received, all against the proposal.

**Proposed Rule Changes to Wildlife Service Agent Agreement** – the Commission adopted amendments to 15A NCAC 10G .0402, 15A NCAC 10G .0403, and 15A NCAC 10G .0405, presented in **Exhibit I-2**, that eliminate the requirement for the NCWRC to provide internet access, computer equipment and equipment support to Wildlife Service Agents.

**No Wake Zone Request – Tyrrell County** – the Commission adopted a request by Tyrrell County, presented in **Exhibit J** by Erik Christofferson, *Engineering Services Division Chief*, for an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0365 to establish a no wake zone within the waters of the canal that leads to the marina at Taylor’s Beach on Albemarle Sound in Columbia.

**Resolution to Establish Reciprocal Hunting License Fees for Nonresidents** – the Commission adopted a resolution, presented in **Exhibit K** by Lisa Hocutt, *Customer Services Support Manager*, to allow changes in nonresident hunting license fees for neighboring states to establish parity under the authority of NCGS 113-275(a1). This resolution supersedes the July 16, 2003 resolution adopted by the Commission regarding North Carolina nonresident hunting license fees for neighboring states.

**Small Game Committee Meeting Report** – Bobby Purcell, *Small Game Committee Chairman*, reported that the Small Game Committee met on July 6, 2011. The committee received an update from Dr. David Cobb about the field study on Coopers Hawks. Greg Smith presented a report on the traditions and history of quail hunting. Dr. Cobb presented an update on Operation Idiopathic Decline being conducted by the State of Texas. The study focuses on diseases and how they are affecting the quail populations.

**Big Game Committee Meeting Report** – *Big Game Committee Chairman* Dave Hoyle reported that more than forty visitors attended the Big Game Committee meeting on July 6 for discussion of bear management issues. Colleen Olfenbuttel, *Bear Biologist*, presented a draft bear management plan. Hoyle stated that more meetings will be held to discuss and address the issues surrounding bear management.

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Report** – Chairman Steve Windham reported that the Committee of the Whole met on July 6. Lisa Hocutt presented an overview of the Resolution establishing changes in nonresident hunting license fees for neighboring states prior to consideration at today's meeting. David Cobb and Bob Curry went over the hunting and fishing rule proposals and technical changes for consideration by the Commission to take to state-wide public hearings.

**Habitat, Non-Game and Endangered Species Committee Meeting Report** – *HNGES Chairman* Chuck Bennett reported that the Habitat, Non-Game and Endangered Species Committee (HNGES) met by teleconference on June 8, 2011. Three nominations for the Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award were received by the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee. That Committee recommended Richard Hamilton as the recipient of the Thomas L. Quay Award. The Commission voted to approve the nomination of Richard Hamilton as the winner of the 2011 Quay Award which will be presented at the August 25, 2011 meeting. Bennett then reported on the appointments of members of the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee (NWAC), established through statute to make recommendations to the WRC through the Habitat, Non-Game and Endangered Species Committee. The Commission adopted the recommendation of the HNGES Committee to appoint Sara Oram to a vacancy on the NWAC Committee, focusing on marketing and fundraising. The Commission adopted the recommendation of the HNGES Committee to reappoint NWAC incumbent committee members Ken Bridle, Gene Vaughn, Wilson Laney, David Webster, and Ann Somers to fill five vacancies for three-year terms. The HNGES Committee reviewed the recommendations in the Scientific Councils' reports on amphibians and reptiles, birds, freshwater and terrestrial mollusks, and freshwater fishes and mammals. WRC staff will review each Scientific Council report and make recommendations for updates to the protected animals listing. Agency staff has been charged with developing firm guidelines for Scientific Council appointments, duties, procedures and policies to facilitate improvements to the listing process. Dr. David Webster was thanked for his competent handling of the listing process to date.

**Twenty-Year Service Recognition** – Chairman Steve Windham presented an award for twenty years of service to the Wildlife Resources Commission to Gordon Myers, *Executive Director*.

**Resolutions Honoring Retiring Commissioners** - Chairman Steve Windham read resolutions that were adopted in honor of Commissioners Chuck Bennett, Bobby Purcell, Maughan Hull, and Eugene Price, who are rotating off the Wildlife Resources Commission. Each Commissioner was presented with a framed wildlife print with appreciation for years of outstanding service and dedication.

**Election of Officers for Two-Year Terms** - the Commission elected David Hoyle, Jr. to serve as Commission Chairman for a two-year term. The Commission elected Martin Lewis to serve as Vice-Chairman for a two-year term.

**Resolution Honoring Steve Windham** – as his first official duty as Chairman, Dave Hoyle read a Resolution that was adopted in honor of Steve Windham's service to the Commission as Chairman. Hoyle presented Windham with a gavel and plaque.

**Comments by Outgoing Chairman Windham** – Outgoing Chairman Windham thanked fellow Commissioners for their assistance with issues facing the WRC. He thanked Wes Seegars for starting the model of opening the business of the Commission to stakeholders and involving constituents more fully in the processes of the Commission. He thanked Division heads and their staff and Director’s Office staff for their professionalism and dedication. Windham especially thanked Gordon Myers for his assistance, noting his honesty and willingness to engage constituents in wildlife conservation issues.

**Comments by the Executive Director** – Gordon Myers thanked Steve Windham for his leadership and friendship. Myers announced that Mallory Martin was selected as a Fellow at the National Conservation Leadership Institute and congratulated him on completing his requirements. This year Col. Dale Caveny, *Enforcement Division Chief*, and Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, have been selected for this prestigious fellowship. Myers presented a legislative update. He reviewed legislative changes to the agency’s funding model under House Bill 200, the 2011 Appropriations Act. Under the appropriations model which pays for salaries and the Beaver Management Program only, the agency must focus on how to meet critical needs not funded through appropriations. Myers said that organizational changes in the agency structure are under consideration.

**Adjournment** - the meeting was adjourned by Outgoing Chairman Windham at 12:05 p.m.